

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Takashi KOBAYASHI et al.

Serial No.: 10/020,573

Filed: October 31, 2001

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE



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Group Art Unit:2811

Examiner:

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:

Date: 07/25/02  
By: Marc A. Rossi  
Marc A. Rossi

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. These references were cited in a corresponding European patent application. A copy of the relevant portion of the search report is enclosed. Copies of the references listed on Form PTO-1449 are attached.

It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, that these references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom, and that an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 07/25/02

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 0125466.3  
Claims searched: 1 to 25

Examiner: T P Marlow  
Date of search: 25 June 2002

## Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

### Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.T): H1K: (KAAD) (KAAX) (KCAV)

Int Cl (Ed.7): H01L

Other: ONLINE: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO

### Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	EP 0749163 A2 FUJI ELECTRIC - see Figures	
A	EP 0671769 A2 NIPPONDENSO - see guard rings (5) in Fig. 1	
A	US 5338961 INTERNATIONAL RECTIFIER - see Figures	

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step  
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.

⌘ Member of the same patent family

A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.  
P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.  
E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application